

88 Top Divorce Lawyers

What Happens When You Call an Ambulance

Searching for Love Before the Internet

When College Kids Decide to Really Party

Guide to Cosmetic Surgery

# WASHINGTONIAN

100 VERY BEST

## RESTAURANTS

THE FINEST DINING *in* DC, MARYLAND, *and* VIRGINIA

Who's Number One?

Restaurants Ranked 1 to 100

Critics Pick the **25** Top Dishes

FEBRUARY 2009



\$4.95 - washingtonian.com

Kobe-beef mini-burgers topped with smoked-onion marmalade and served on brioche buns at the Source



# BREAKING UP IS HARD TO DO

A down economy makes unhappy couples even more unhappy—and makes it harder for couples to split. Here are some memorable divorcees, plus 88 lawyers who know how to get the job done.



By KIM ISAAC EISLER AND LESLIE MILK

Photograph by CHRIS LEAMAN

YOU MIGHT THINK THAT IN tough times, bankruptcy lawyers are the busiest people in town. But the economy here is more recession-proof than most. What a slowdown in business seems to cause is more wealthy people lining up for counsel at the offices of the region's top divorce lawyers.

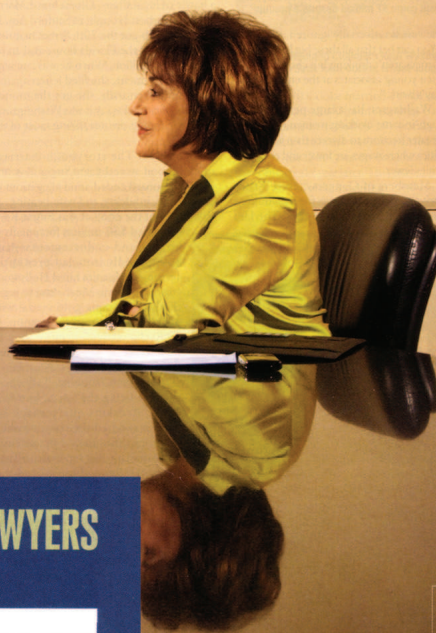
"When times are good," says DC divorce lawyer Sandy Ain, "people tend

to try to work things out. But now, when there isn't as much to divide, the parties get much more contentious."

Adds Bethesda's Cheryl New: "When couples are flush, they hate each other. When they're broke, they really hate each other."

But for many middle-income people, the slowdown in house prices is complicating things. Rockville's

Robin Clark says that in the past, "the house was the savior—the parties could sell it and take away enough proceeds to pay off their debts and still have a nice nest egg. Now we have couples who purchased at the top of the market, then took cash out, and now they can't break even. This creates a difficult cash-flow problem that only intensifies the anxiety."



The king and queen of Splitsville: Sandy Ain and Marna Tucker. They are two of the top divorce lawyers.

FEBRUARY 2009 | WASHINGTONIAN | 57

## 2009 TOP DIVORCE LAWYERS

### SmolenPlevy



Alan Plevy

Alan Plevy understands the financial and emotional challenges of divorce, especially when children are involved. It's a challenging time and Mr. Plevy's clients depend on him for solutions. As a co-founding principal of SmolenPlevy, and one of this area's leading divorce attorneys, Mr. Plevy knows the complex laws in Virginia and Maryland, the court systems and—most of all—the people involved in the process. Mr. Plevy, with his co-founding principal Jason Smolen, work with the accomplished attorneys at SmolenPlevy to ensure your financial affairs are understood, your assets are handled advantageously and your family is treated with respect and dignity.

Mr. Plevy's first goal is to resolve the divorce without litigation. But when an agreement cannot be reached, he aggressively pursues the matter in court. In fact, cases which Mr. Plevy has argued to appellate courts are regularly cited as landmark precedents. Mr. Plevy has been recognized by Virginia Super Lawyers and has received the coveted AV rating by Martindale-Hubbell. Both distinctions are determined by judges and peers in the legal community.

SmolenPlevy  
8045 Leesburg Pike  
5th Floor  
Vienna, Virginia 22182  
(703) 790-1900  
www.smolenplevy.com

## WASHINGTONIAN

### 2009 Top Divorce Lawyers

Alan Plevy, SmolenPlevy;  
Vienna, 703-790-1900

—Washingtonian, February 2009